

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

The paragraph, beginning at page 1, line 20 has been amended as follows:

The present application is a continuation of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/344,639, filed on June 26, 1999, now ~~allowed~~ U.S. patent No. 6,743,590 B1; which is a continuation-in-part of U.S. Patent Application No. 09/231,422, filed on January 14, 1999, now ~~allowed~~ U.S. patent No. 6,689,566 B1.